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Title : Need to have more than one "Time Zone" for India in view of its geographical nature.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Madam, India is recognized as a vast country in the world. The geographical area of our country is estimated 32,87,260 square kilometres. India is situated between the longitude of 82.25 degree East and 97.30 degree East but set as standard time based on the longitude 82.5 degree East close to the mean longitude, that is, five and a half hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. The difference between the time of the two Capitals, namely, Kohima, the Capital of Nagaland in the East and Mumbai, the Capital of the Maharashtra– one on the extreme East and another on the extreme West – is two hours.

Madam, not only India has a huge geographical area but it is also a long-sized country longitude-wise. There are countries in the world, namely, Russia, USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, etc. which are maintaining more than one time zones. In Russia, you will find 11 time zones, in US – six time zones, in Canada – seven time zones, and in Mexico – three time zones. But so far as India is concerned, still we are maintaining only one time zone. That is why, the people who are living in the West are utilizing the time more productively in contrast to the people who are living in the East. Naturally, the western people of our country are in an advantageous position *vis-a-vis* the people of the eastern India.

Therefore, I have a proposal to this Government that India should have two time zones. For the North-East, the time should be based on the longitude of 105 degree East which is seven hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time while for the rest of the country, it should be based on the longitude of 90 degree East which is six hours ahead of GMT so that we can better utilise the time and the day light of our country.